Supply of F-16 Fighter Aircrafts to Pakistan by US

814. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that US will deliver 40 F-16 Fighter aircraft to Pakistan by the end of this year;

(b) whether Government are also aware that such aircraft has been designed to carry nuclear weapons;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force has no Fighter aircraft which can match the fighting capability of F-16 aircraft supplied to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what measures or steps Government have taken to strengthen the Indian Air Force to counter the enhanced air power of the Pakistani Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Government have been reports to this effect.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Manufacure of Mirage 2000 Aircraft in India

815. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the much awaited Mirage 2000, the advanced fighter aircraft, has been inducted in the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether France has also agreed to transfer to India the highly sophisticated technology of Mirage and to assist India in its manufacture in India;

(c) if so, whether India has opted to manufacture the aircraft;

(d) whether India has approached France to purchase Mirage 2000 N for the Indian Air Force which has been inducted in the France Air Force, if so, whether France has agreed to sell such aircraft to India;

(e) if answer to parts (a) to (d) above be in affirmative, what is the number of Mirage 2000 which India has contracted to buy from France; and

(f) what is the range capacity of Mirage 2000 in comparision to F-16 A Falcon, whether it is fitted with nuclear weapon delivery system and in what respect it is superior to F-16A Falcon which America has supplied to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Forty.

(f) Each aircraft has its merits and demerits. It would not be in the public interest to disclose further details in this regard.

US decision to sell arms to India

816. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government have agreed in principle to sell sophisticated arms to India on the condition that the Indian Government would take necessary precautions to ensure that the sensitive US weapon technology is not passed on to other countries;

(b) if so, by when such arms are likely to reach India; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There has been an offer; but in regard to terms and conditions, there are reservations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.